

VZCZCXRO5277
PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #5604 3530256
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 190256Z DEC 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0421
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5055
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 7451
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 3774
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 5692
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8720
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0721
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2018
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6770
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7492
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 005604

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - IRAN'S RELATIONS WITH
U.S. AND RUSSIA

LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning papers gave top play to the rearrest of former Vice Defense Minister Moriya on charges of accepting additional bribes from a former managing director of a defense hardware trading company.

¶1. "U.S. Approach to Iran Facing Impasse" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri's Washington correspondent reported (12/19): "President Bush expressed support on Monday for the Russian provision of nuclear fuel to an Iranian nuclear power plant at Bushehr by saying that Tehran no longer needs to learn how to enrich uranium. However, given that the U.S. initially opposed the construction of the plant because of concerns about the facility potentially being used for developing nuclear weapons, the president's endorsement of the fuel transfer was an agonizing decision. Furthermore, chances are slim that the Iranian government will halt its uranium enrichment program in exchange for receiving Russian fuel. Concern is mounting in the U.S. that the Bush administration's Iran policy has hit a snag."

¶2. "Russia Focusing on Nuclear Deals" A Moscow-based reporter for the liberal Asahi wrote (12/19): "Russia has begun the shipment of nuclear fuel to the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran in the face of U.S. concern. Moscow appears to be interested in making this a test-case for the nuclear-fuel business it hopes to create and expand. Iran is continuing uranium enrichment while ignoring UN Security Council

resolutions. Moscow appears to be going ahead with the provision on the grounds that its cooperation on this front will help deter Tehran's nuclear development."

SCHIEFFER